



NEWS FROM THE 1st DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

I'm reporting back to you after a very frustrating week in Washington. Speaker Ryan called the House out of session on Thursday even though we had not completed essential work. Last night, many critical programs expired because of Congressional inaction. These include the Medicaid CHIP program, which covers 9 million American children; funding for Community Health Centers, which means our 12 New Hampshire CHCs could face a 70% budget cut; and the Perkins loan program, which helps thousands in New Hampshire to attend college. Please know that I am making it clear to my House colleagues: leaving the people's work unfinished like this is completely unacceptable.

Evaluating military readiness in Asia and the Pacific



Last week, I participated in a Congressional Delegation to Japan, the Republic of Korea, the DMZ, Guam, and Hawaii with several of my Republican colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee. It was an important opportunity to discuss regional readiness and security issues with our allies and U.S. military officials and servicemembers. While touring the damaged

U.S.S. Fitzgerald, I met with sailors and thanked them for their heroism during the tragic August collision.

Hurricane response

I am furious about this Administration's weak response to Hurricane Maria and about this weekend's tweets from President Trump lashing out at the victims. On Wednesday, I sent [a letter](#) with 144 House colleagues calling for the Department of Defense to deploy additional resources to aid recovery efforts in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Specifically, we called for appointment of a senior general to oversee all recovery efforts; the deployment of the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier; and increased personnel to assist local law enforcement. Disaster response is a cause that is personal for me: in 2005, when I was a Red Cross volunteer in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina, the federal government's inadequate response helped inspire me to run for Congress.

Keeping up pressure for a full-service VA hospital

In a letter to Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin, I joined the rest of the New Hampshire delegation to reiterate our call for a full-service VA hospital in New Hampshire. We wrote because of our concern that official guidance given to the VA New Hampshire VISION 2025 Task Force did not include direct reference to "full services."

I have advocated for many years for the VA to return a full-service medical facility to New Hampshire, and want to make sure the task force understands that its purpose is to recommend the best ways to ensure that New Hampshire veterans have access to the full scope of VA services, up to and including a full-service medical facility.

Tax reform for the rest of us

According to the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, [80 percent](#) of the tax benefits in this week's Trump Administration tax reform outline would go to the top 1% of American earners, and the deficit would increase by \$2.4 trillion in the first decade. Clearly, this plan is not designed with New Hampshire's working families in mind.

The day before the outline was released, I outlined the pro-working-family, pro-small-business principles I will use to evaluate any Congressional tax proposal in response to a letter from Governor Sununu. I told the Governor that tax reform proposals must meet the following minimum standards: fairness for families; lower taxes on small businesses; increased simplicity; inclusion of the Buffett Rule; and revenue neutrality. Clearly, this week's outline fails to meet those standards.

Fighting for opioid funding

On Friday, I asked Attorney General Jeff Sessions to explain the U.S. Department of Justice's decision to award New Hampshire less than 1% of the \$58.8 million in Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) awards it disbursed nationwide. The New Hampshire Department of Justice submitted five grant applications for help fighting this crisis, yet the U.S. DOJ approved only one. I told him New Hampshire is one of the states that has been hardest hit by the national opioid crisis, which is why I'm asking for an explanation.

Celebrating educational excellence

This week, I was proud to congratulate Riddle Brook School and Belmont Middle School on their much-deserved recognition as 2017 National Blue Ribbon Schools. These awards are an impressive testament to the talent and dedication of Riddle Brook and Belmont Middle faculty and staff, and the schools' parents and communities should be very proud of the great learning environment they are providing for their kids.



I met with Sanborn Regional High School Principal Brian Stack to congratulate him on being recognized as New Hampshire's Secondary School Principal of the Year. Thanks, Mr. Stack, for the work you do and the care you show for Granite State kids.

Closing thoughts

Early last week, I breathed a sigh of relief because once again, engaged Americans beat back a heartless healthcare repeal bill. But all the time that Republicans in Congress spent pushing the Graham-Cassidy did significant damage. Read more in this NBC News article: [Obamacare Repeal Failed, but the Damage Is Already Done](#).

I am outraged that some middle-class New Hampshire families will suffer huge premium hikes next year because of the chaos D.C. Republicans have created in the individual insurance market. This is exactly why I spent the past year urging my colleagues to pass bipartisan marketplace stabilization legislation, which would have provided insurers with needed certainty, and also why Congress should pass my bill, the Medicare You Can Opt Into Act, and make sure every American has an affordable option that's not vulnerable to profit-driven rate hikes.

Best wishes,

Carol Shea-Porter

Carol

This Week's Press Releases

- [Shea-Porter Presses DOJ to Explain New Hampshire's Low Share of National CARA Funding Awards](#)
- [Shea-Porter Congratulates Local Schools on Prestigious National Blue Ribbon Award](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on H.R. 2792, the CUFF Act](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on Insurance Department Study and Future of New Hampshire's Medicaid Expansion](#)
- [Shea-Porter, 144 House Members Call For Improved Hurricane Maria Response](#)
- [NH Congressional Delegation Reiterates Call for Full-Service VA Hospital](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on Indonesian Deportation Hold](#)
- [Shea-Porter Writes Back to Sununu on Tax Reform](#)
- [Shea-Porter Calls for Immediate Congressional Action on Expiring Health Care Programs, Hurricane Relief](#)

ICYMI

NH Primary Source: Congressional delegation presses VA secretary on full-service hospital in NH

WMUR // John DiStaso

The four members of the New Hampshire congressional delegation wrote an open letter to Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin Wednesday expressing concern that a new task force looking at ways to improve services for veterans in the state was not formally instructed to review how to provide "full services." Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan, and U.S. Reps. Carol Shea-Porter and Annie Kuster reiterated their call for a full-service VA hospital in the Granite State.

Judge puts deportations of local Indonesians on hold

Portsmouth Herald // Judi Currie

BOSTON -- A federal judge has put a hold on the deportation of local Indonesians, including a Somersworth couple who were scheduled to leave the country on Wednesday. U.S. Rep. Carol Shea-Porter, D-N.H., in a statement, said the hold is the right decision. "My office will continue advocating for these Indonesian families, who are longstanding, valued members of our New Hampshire Seacoast community."

Should the U.S. Require Companies to Report Breaches?

Fox Business // Christopher Mims

Many firms share information with each other through cybersecurity back-channels, but participation is entirely voluntary. That's one reason the European Union passed the General Data Protection Regulation, going into effect May 2018, which will force companies that do business in the EU and the United Kingdom to promptly disclose when personal data is breached. Lawmakers in the U.S. are urging Congress to follow suit. Rep. Langevin reintroduced the Personal Data Notification and Protection Act, first proposed by President Obama in 2015. Co-sponsors include Rep. Ted Lieu (D., Calif.) and Rep. Carol Shea-Porter (D., N.H.). All three are members of the bipartisan Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus.



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